

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /068 W  
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R 091202Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0375  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMCONSUL DHARAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0588

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: EAID, YE  
SUBJ:DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN: ROADS.

SUMMARY: ROAD-BUILDING IS LEADING SECTOR OF YARG  
DEVELOPMENT OF INFRA-STRUCTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE ABDAL AZIZ ABD AL-GHANI TOOK OFFICE TWO YEARS AGO  
ROAD PROJECTS HAVE BEEN STARTED THROUGHOUT YEMEN. ONE SUCH  
PROJECT, BETWEEN SANA AND MARIB, WILL TIE THE EASTERN PART OF  
YEMEN INTO THE MARKETS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES OF SANA, AND  
REDUCE PRESENT, BACK-BREAKING EIGHT HOUR TRIP TO SMOOTH,  
TWO-HOUR TRIP. THE UAE IS UNDERWRITING THE ESTIMTED  
\$47.3 MILLION COST. THE \$30 MILLION THE SAUDI ARE NOW  
DISBURSING FOR WORK ON THE DHAMAR-BAYDA ROAD WILL OPEN UP  
THE POPULOUS SOUTHEAST PART OF YEMEN, WHILE WORLD BANK  
ROADS TO TAIZ AND TURBA FROM THE SOUTHERN END OF THE  
RUSSIAN HIGHWAY WILL MAKE THE FAMOUS HUJARIYA REGION  
MUCH MORE ACCESSIBLE. THE PAVING OF THE SANA-TUIZ ROAD  
HAS ENDED ALTHOUGH THE GERMANS WHO FINANCED THIS  
\$40 MILLION PROJECT, HAVE ALLOCATED MORE MONEY FOR  
MAINTENANCE. THE CHINESE ROAD, FROM SANA TO SAADA

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IS ALL BUT FUNISHED, AND A SPUR IS REACHING OUT TO THE WEST  
FROM UMRAN TO HAJJA. THE CHINESE HAVE EARMARKED  
SOME OF THEIR NEW \$27 MILLION CREDIT TO COMPLETE THIS  
PROJECT. A YR 20 MILLION PROJECT IS PRODUCING  
DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS FOR ANOTHER 2000 KILOMETERS OF  
MAIN AND FEEDER ROADS. THIS WILL INCLUDE ROADS TO  
KEY TRIBAL REDOUTS LIKE JIHANA (IN THE KHAWLAN AL-TIYAL)

AND BEIT AL-SAID (BENI HUSHAYSH) PLUS DOZENS OF ROADS  
IN RECALCITRANT NORTHEAST PART OF THE COUNTRY.

2. THIS BURST OF ROAD BUILDING IS LIKELY TO HAVE AS  
MUCH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT AS THE ORIGINAL ROADS  
BUILT IN THE 60'S AND LINKING SANA, TAIZ AND HODEIDA.  
THE IMPORTANT ATTACHED TO ROADS BY THE YARG IS REFLECTED  
IN THE FACT THAT THEY EAT UP 86 PERCENT OF THE BUDGET FOR  
COMMUNICATIONS, WITH MUCH SMALLER SUMS GOING TO AIRPORTS,  
HARBORS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

3. PICTURE IS NOT ALL BRIGHT, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE YEMEN  
STILL LACKS ANY ROAD LINK TO QUOKIDE WORLD TO NORTH.  
HODEIDA TO JIZAN, ON COAST, IS PRESENTLY TRIP THAT  
TAKES TWO AND A HALF DAYS OVER SAND AND SINKHOLES.  
SAADAH TO THE SAUDI CITY OF NAJRAR TAKES ONLY EIGHT  
HOURS BUT IS VERY HEAVILY TRAVELED ALTHOUGH IT IS LITTLE  
MORE THAN A TRACK ACROSS STONLY RIDGES AND DOWN WATERCOURSES.  
SAADA ROAD WAS PROMISED IN 1970 BY THE SAUDIS, WHO NOW SAY  
THE ENGINEERING WILL BE FINISHED SHORTLY, ALLOWING A TENDER  
WITHIN FIVE MONTHS, THE SAUDIS HAVE ALSO PROMISED AN EARLY  
START ON CONSTRUCTION IN YEMEN ON THE ROAD NORTH OF HODEIDA,  
ALSO, ANNOUNCED ORIGINALLY IN 1970. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS  
LIKELY TO BE THREE YEARS BEFORE YEMEN WILL HAVE A PAVED,  
ALL-WEATHER ROAD TO THE NORTH.

4. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT IS THAT ABDAL AZIZ ABD AL-GHANI  
MADE AND PUBLISHED LIST OF ALL ABOVE ROAD PROJECTS AT  
TIME HE BECAUSE PRIME MINISTER IN JANUARY 1975.

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AS STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS THEN REGARDED AS REMARKABLE  
EXAMPLE OF YEMENI ABILITY TO REACH BEYOND ITS GRASP,  
LIST IS REMARKABLE TODAY BECAUSE, WITH EXCEPTION TO TWO  
SAUDI ROADS, ABDAL AZIZ ABD AL-GHANI MADE GOOD ON ALL ITS  
PROMISES IN FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS.  
COMMENT: IT IS ROADS WHICH WILL, IN THE HAMDI SCHEME,  
SUBORDINATE THE TRIBES TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, PROVIDING  
THE CHANNEL FOR GETTING EDUCATION, PRODUCTS, GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIALS INTO THE HINTERLAND. PERHAPS HIS ROLE HAS BEEN  
PRIMARILY THAT OF A CATALYST, BUT, IN ANY CASE, ABDAL AZIZ  
ABD AL-GHANI HAS CLEARLY SERVICED BOTH HAMDI AND YEMEN WELL  
IN THIS KEY AREA OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.  
SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

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